

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

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TAGS: SENV, CA

SUBJECT: PRESS ITEM: GARRISON DIVERSION

1. FEBRUARY 22 GLOBE AND MAIL HAS PUBLISHED LENGTHY ARTICLE BY MARTIN O'MALLEY DATELINED WINNIPEG AND ENTITLED "THE GARRISON PROJECT: POURING SALT INTO CANADA'S RIVERS" WITH SUB-TITLE "SOME FEAR LAKE WINNIPEG WILL BECOME ANOTHER LAKE ERIE."

2. ARTICLE REVIEWS FACTS AND OFFICIAL CANADIAN VIEW OF PROJECT AND REPORTS THAT ON MONDAY "OFFICIALS OF FIVE GOVERNMENTS -- CANADA, US, NORTH DAKOTA, MANITOBA AND SASKATCHEWAN -- WILL MEET IN WINNIPEG PRESUMABLY TO DISCUSS CANADIAN OBJECTIONS TO THE GARRISON PROJECT."

3. ARTICLE GOES ON TO CITE PROBLEMS PROJECT CREATES FOR CANADA AND THEN QUOTES ROBERT OETTING, WILDLIFE ECOLOGIST WITH MANITOBA DEPARTMENT OF MINES, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AS SAYING: "MANITOBA IS GOING TO BE THE SEWER OF THE PROJECT... IT SPELLS DOOM FOR THE LAKE (LAKE WINNIPEG) AS A RECREATIONAL AREA."

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4. FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF PROJECT THEN DISCUSSED WITH CONCLUSION

THAT "ALL THIS IS BEING SPENT TO IRRIGATE 250,000 ACRES OF SEMI-ARID LAND THAT ALREADY SUPPORTS A WORKABLE DRY-LAND AGRICULTURE. WHAT IS STAGGERING IS THAT THE...DIVERSION PROJECT... WILL CONSUME NEARLY AS MUCH LAND... AS WILL EVENTUALLY BE IRRIGATED.

"DR. OETTING ONCE WORKED IN NORTH DAKOTA AND OCCASIONALLY DEALT WITH THE TWO AGENCIES BUILDING GARRISON: THE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND BUREAU OF RECLAMATION. HE SAYS THEY ARE CLEVER, RUTHLESS PROPAGANDISTS AND GARRISON IS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THEY JUSTIFY WHOOPING PROJECTS IN ORDER TO STAY IN BUSINESS."

5. AFTER CITING OPPOSITION TO PROJECT IN NORTH KAKOTA, ARTICLE QUOTES THEODORE MANN, BUREC PROJECT MANAGER IN BISMARCK: "WE DON'T MIND PUTTING OUT WHAT THE PROJECT IS ABOUT, ITS BENEFITS, AND LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE... ALL THEY (THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS) WANT TO DO IS STOP EVERYTHING. I THINK THAT A GREAT PART OF CANADA AND THE US HAS BEEN THE CONSTRUCTION AND USE OF OUR PRODUCTS IN DEVELOPMENT..."

6. ARTICLE THEN REPORTS THAT IN MANITOBA, "THE GARRISON PROJECT IS NOT A MAJOR ISSUE -- YET... SIDNEY GREEN, MINISTER OF MINES, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT... SAID HE COULD SEE NO REASON FOR MANITOBA TO ADD TO OTTAWA'S PROTEXT. 'I JON'T KNOW WHAT GOOD IT WOULD DO. WORKING THROUGH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS PROVED TO BE THE BEST WAY'." IN CONCLUSION GLOBE AND MAIL CITES INTEREST OF SENATOR YOUNG IN PROJECT AND REVIEWS DEVELOPING OPPOSITION IN CONGRSS, PARTICULARLY CITING GROWING WORRY THAT US MAY HAVE ANOTHER COLORADO RIVER PROBLEM ON ITS HANDS: "THE GARRISON WOULD DO THE SAME THING IN CANADA... BUT THE SALT LEVELS WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY DOUBLE THAT WHICH IS CAUSING... PROBLEMS IN MEXICO... DR. BETTING... IS NOT ENCOURAGED BY SOURCES IN WASHINGTON WHO THINK THE PROJECT MAY BE SUSPENDED OR EVEN CANCELLED, 'I STILL THINK THAT WE ARE GOING TO GET A FULL-BLOWN GARRISON WITH ALL THE BAD EFFECT'." JOHNSON

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